

**President's Report
 April 7, 2006**

The following updates ongoing issues and activities concerning the board, program operators and other workforce development organizations.

Items planned for discussion as part of the April 7 agenda are marked with an.*

***Program Year 2006 Allocations** The U.S. Department of Labor encountered issues while using Census 2000 data in determining state WIA allocations for Program Year 2006. The DOL will rework the formulas, relying on earlier census data, thus causing a delay in notifying the states concerning allocations. As a result, the states will receive an "issue interim partial allotments based on minimum amounts states are guaranteed to receive under WIA." The VEC will provide local workforce investment areas with their projected allocations as soon as the information is available, probably not before late April or early May.

Under WIA, local areas are guaranteed at least 90 percent of the average of PY2004 and 05 funding for adult and youth program services:

Program	PY 04			PY 05		PY 06
	Allocation	Contract	Expended	Allocation	Contract	Expected
Adult	\$374,314	\$514,883	\$456,390	\$363,450	\$508,000	\$268,914
Youth	\$384,138	\$391,456	\$373,588	\$384,155	\$343,508	\$280,042

There is no guaranteed funding level for Dislocated Worker Services. The allocation relative number of unemployed individuals, excess unemployment (over 4.5 percent) and long term unemployment (more than 15 weeks.)

***Action and Business Plans** The WVWDB has been asked to submit an updated Action Plan to the State Council by June 1. Although previous correspondence and technical assistance from the Council had indicated the Board would also need to revise its business plan, the Council has now asked for a new business plan requiring Board and CLEO concurrence and approval, along with a 30-day public comment period. Because this change of request, which has not yet been formally issued, comes with less than 60 days prior to the deadline, it will be highly problematic for Area III to meet the requirements.

***Performance Response and Explanation** The Virginia Workforce Council has asked that local areas which missed any performance criteria for two consecutive years explain in writing the cause. Area III missed the Adult credential measure for both Program Years 2003 and 2004.

In PY2003 the Board, having become aware of programmatic issues concerning then-provider Fifth District Training Consortium, procured Goodwill Industries of the Valleys and Alleghany County to provide adult services. Upon reviewing every existing file provided by the FDTC, the new program operator notified the Board of extensive eligibility and documentation issues. Following technical guidance from the state, a large number of inactive former participants were exited from the system in mass. There was not a sufficiently large enough number of positive outcomes from the ongoing program to offset such a high number of negative outcomes from the previous program.

Additionally, The Alleghany County program credential was not presented to the Board for approval until late 2004; therefore, many of those who actually obtained a credential in that program were not credited with such.

However, because of the action taken by the Board during PY2003 and 2004,

the effect of the mass exits and un-credited credentials has been cleared from the system. Although the measure was missed twice, the actual numbers reveal the effects of the changes: In PY2003, the final results for Adult Credential Rate was 16.7; just one year later the rate almost tripled, jumping to 43.5 percent. The improvement has continued into PY2005 with a rate of 56.4 as of the second quarter, which meets the 80 percent of negotiated rate requirement.

Workforce Center Certification	The Franklin County Workforce Development Consortium received its Tier I certification site visit on March 30. The surprise review of the center was to ascertain whether its programs and facilities fit the requirements of a comprehensive One-Stop center. The review team submitted a follow-up report providing areas of concern. Once those areas are addressed the center expects to receive its full certification.
Tax-Exempt Status	<p>The Western Virginia Workforce Development Board has successfully applied for and received tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. This status allows the Board to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ apply for grants available only to those with tax exempt status▪ receive charitable contributions from organizations and individuals <p>Special thanks to WDB accountant Sherry Dean for completing the extensive application; we received the notification in less than 60 days following submittal with no additional information required.</p>
Board/CLEO Agreement	The CLEO Consortium is scheduled to meet on Friday, April 14. The agenda will include a discussion of the mandated agreement between the Board of Directors and the CLEO. The Board of Directors passed the agreement at its December meeting.
Training Provider Certification	The Board's administrative staff is accepting applications for certification from area training providers. Current and prospective providers participated in an application process conference on March 1 to discuss changes in the local policy and subsequent revisions to the local applications. Deadline for submissions was March 31. Following an administrative review by staff, the Training Provider Committee (Kathy Hodges, Linda Matthews, Toni Hamilton, and Walter Harper) will review the initial and recertification applications. Their recommendations will be submitted for approval at the June 2 Board of Directors meeting.
MOUs	The Commonwealth's standard Memorandum of Understanding has been submitted to each of the mandated partners for consideration. The MOU, which can be modified for local use, includes a section for partners to identify their contribution to the workforce centers and system, as well as a four-year renewal clause. To date, several have been completed and returned. Staff will meet with representatives of the remaining organizations to complete the agreements prior to July 1. (Please see mandated partner matrix attached.)
City Employee Agreement	Staff and city administrators have completed the necessary agreements. Pending expected City Council approval on April 24, staff will become City of Roanoke employees.
Compliance Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Site visits have been completed for local monitoring at Goodwill Industries of the Valley for Youth and Adult Services and at the Virginia Employment Commission for the Dislocated Worker Program. A report of findings has been submitted to the VEC and is awaiting response. Local monitor Clay Stein is completing written reports for Goodwill; those will be submitted for response after staff review.

- VEC WIA Consultant Tab Mines will conduct the state-level monitoring in Area III during the week of June 5. He will examine both programmatic and administrative functions at the board level.
- The U.S. Department of Labor did not include Area III in its selection of local workforce investment areas to review in Virginia.
- The Virginia Workforce Council has contracted with the Urban Institute to conduct independent assessments of each of the state's 16 workforce areas.

**Case-
Manager
Training**

Case managers from all three WIA-funded programs reviewed local policies and procedures during a training session at the Roanoke Higher Education Center on March 22. The session included a review of proposed policy changes concerning supportive services, needs-related payments, Individual Employment Plans (IEPs) and Individual Training Accounts. Currently certified and prospective training providers also made presentations to the case managers to further explain the benefits and advantages of their individual programs. The following participated:

- National College of Business & Technology
- Jefferson College of Health Sciences
- Franklin County Adult Education
- TAP's Center for Employment Training.
- Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
- ECPI Technical College
- BarPalma Beauty Academy
- Elliott Training Center (not yet certified)

**Performance
Celebration
Lunch**

More than 30 case manager, board members and guests attend a special lunch event on March 22 to celebrate Area III's outstanding performance for the second quarter of PY 2005. We met two of the 17 measures and exceeded the remaining 15. This is the first time all 17 had been reached at the same time. Board chair Wayne Flippen thanked all those involved in reaching the milestone. Former Adult Services participant Ann Bostic tearfully related the role Goodwill's program had played in her life. Ms. Bostic became disabled and could no longer continue in her physically demanding job. She entered Goodwill's program, completed training and is now working as a receptionist at the organization's corporate office.

**VWNIS
Computer
System**

The state's technology agency (VITA) has completed its review of the VWNIS project and specifications for purchase. The sole-source purchase of a Geographic Solutions software product will integrate with VELMA, the commonwealth's labor marketing information system. The new system will serve as a case management system and performance tracking system for WIA programs, as well as other Workforce Center programs operated by the VEC, such as employment services, unemployment insurance, Trade Act and Veterans. The replacement system also allows for fiscal management, tracking training providers and a customer tracking system. The Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services is in the planning stages of joining the project as well.

Jobs EQ

WVWDB was selected as one of three Local Workforce Investment Areas to receive a free, one-year subscription to JobsEQ as part of a pilot program through the state. Staff participated in training in March. While there is only one no-cost user ID available for each area during the pilot, it can be shared, though not used simultaneously. The Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission is working with board staff to make sure of the reports as well.

**Leadership
Trip to
Lynchburg**

Doloris Vest participated in a leadership trip sponsored by the Blue Ridge Business Journal. The group included business people and partner organizations from the Roanoke and New River Valleys who met with their counterparts in Lynchburg. The presentations stressed workforce development as the primary focus of economic development throughout the

Region 2000 area. In that five-jurisdiction area, the local WIB, economic development partnership, regional commission and technology commission operate cooperatively, though with separate boards. Many of their operations are co-located to ensure the highest level of cooperation. Region 2000's economic development focus has been on building existing businesses and growth in entrepreneurial efforts, especially among dislocated workers, in an effort to retain the talent released by several major layoffs in recent years. They spend little time pursuing "cash cow" or global prospects. The efforts are paying off: They expect a need for more 5,000 new employees in their area in the coming five years.

**Southwest
Virginia Job
Fair**

WVWDB hosted the Youth Council and other partners at a booth at this April 4 event sponsored by Total Action Against Poverty. The Youth Council staffed the booth during the morning session for high-school students. Goodwill and VEC staff participated in the afternoon general public session. More than 1,000 people attend the 8th annual event

**Special
Advisor**

Former Virginia AFL-CIO head Danny LeBlanc has been named Special Advisor to the Governor for Workforce Development. He is expected to become Deputy Chief of Staff for Workforce Development when legislation creating that position (and approved by the General Assembly) is signed by the Governor.

**Merged
Workforce
Areas**

Virginia Local Workforce Investment Areas IV (Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton) and V (Winchester) have voted to merge. Earlier this year Area V's executive director accepted other employment. A need to fill the vacancy, and the expectation of further reductions in funding, led the two groups to combine operations to increase efficiencies.